

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

IO-13 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 USIE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 /124 W

-----030224 261706Z /50

O R 261526Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1385

INFO ALL UNCTAD SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS POSTS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASUL DURBAN

USINT HAVAN

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD SUGAR CONFERENCE

1. UNCTAD SUGAR CONFERENCE REMAINS AT AN IMPASSE OVER ISSUE OF ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS TO TOP THREE EXPORTERS. WEEKEND HAS SEEN GOOD DEAL OF ACTIVITY BUT NO PROGRESS ON THIS MAJOR ISSUE.

2. ASST SECRETARY KATZ MET WITH EACH OF BIG THREE EXPORTERS BETWEEN SATURDAY AND MONDAY MORNING. IMPRESSIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: (A) CUBANS SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO PLAY WITH QUOTA NUMBERS AS LONG AS THEIR OWN ABSOLUTE SHARE, NOW THE HIGHEST, WAS NOT REDUCED AND AS LONG AS RELATIVE SHARE NOT REDUCED MUCH.

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(B) AUSTRALIANS CONCERN IS NOT SO MUCH RELATIVE POSITION AMONG BIG 3 BUT PROBLEM OF JUSTIFYING TO THEIR GROWERS CUT-BACKS BELOW SOME MINIMUM EXPORT LEVEL. TYING DOWN CUBA'S SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD.

(C) BRAZILIANS WOULD ACCEPT ANY NUMBER THAT PUT THEM AT NO LESS THAN EQUALITY WITH OTHERS. ON ALL OTHER POSITIONS THEY ARE AT OR CLOSE TO US POSITIONS.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH CUBANS INDICATE THEY DO NOT EXPECT QUOTA DEADLOCK TO BE BROKEN UNTIL END OF WEEK. ARRIVAL OF BRAZILIAN MINISTER CALMON DA SA MONDAY A.M. APPEARS HAVE

STRENGTHENED CUBAN CONVICTION BRAZILIANS WILL EVENTUALLY CAVE.

4. OTHER CONFERENCE ISSUES APPEAR RESOLVEABLE. CUBANS STILL INFLEXIBLE ON MINIMUM PRICE OF 13 CENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF THEIR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE LITTLE REAL SUPPORT ON PRICE AND WE DOUBT THAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ISSUE WILL PREVENT AGREEMENT.

5. ODDS IN FAVOR OF ULTIMATE AGREEMENT REMAIN HIGH, BUT OUTCOME DEPENDS ON GAME OF CHICKEN BETWEEN AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL AND CUBA WHICH LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR A WHILE LONGER.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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